(c) if so, what is the price of each medicine before the announcement of DPCO, 1987 and what is the present price and how much percentage increase is in each medicine; and

(d) what remedical steps have been taken by Government to save the poor consumer from loot by drug companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Prices of some non-scheduled medicines have gone up. To the extent available, the required details have been given in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 635 for 29th February, 1988.

(d) The prices of all scheduled bulk drugs and formulations are regulated as per provisions of DPCO, 1987 to ensure availability of these medicines at fair and reasonable prices.

Work Charge Staff in NPCC

686. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of candidates selected on work charge basis in National Project Construction Corporation Ltd.; and

(b) what is the number of S.C./S.T. candidates selected on work-charge basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) At present, National Projects Construction Corporation has a strength of 3604 work-charged workmen on its rolls. This includes 398 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and 102 belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

SC/ST Employees in NPCC

687. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SC/ST employees appointed in National Projects Construction Corporation Limited since the inception of the Corporation;

(b) whether there is any backlog of SC/ST employees in NPCC; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken to complete the backlog of SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) In all 118 SC/ST employees were appointed in the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited since its inception.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Reserved vacancies are being carried forward by the NPCC upto 3 years. SC/ST candidates are paid to and fro railway fare when called for interview. SC/ST candidates are given age concessons and exemption from payment of application fee. SC/ST members are co-opted on the Selection Committees.

हिन्दी भाषा का प्रसार

688. **श्री राम चन्द्र विकल** : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "क" और "ख" क्षेत्रों में राजभाषा अधिनियम की पूर्णतः अवहेलना करते हुए, रोमन लिपि के कम्प्यूटरों, टेलेक्स मशीनों और टेलीप्रिंटरों जैसे दर्जनों आधुनिक यंत्रों के आगमन और अबाधित प्रयोग के फलस्वरूप हिन्दी के प्रसार का कार्य वर्षों पीछे पड़ गया है और जहां भी टेलेक्स मशीनें लगायी गई है वहां से एक भी तार हिन्दी में नही भेजा गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि "क" क्षेत्रों में अंग्रेजी के टंकन यंत्रों आदि की तुलना में देवनागरी के टंकन यंत्रे, टंककों और आशुलिपकों की संख्या नहीं के बराबर है जबकि उनकी संख्या 50:50 होनी चाहिए थी; और

(ग) यदि हां तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और हिन्दी भाषा के प्रसार के लिए क्या नए कदम उठाए गए हैं ?